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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9877
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3253

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: GROWING RESISTANCE TO LABOR UNITY

REF: ROME'S 2733

1. DIOACCHINO FERIOLI, CONFIDENTIAL AIDE TO UIL SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI, IS GOINT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY ON TUESDAY. HOWARD MOLISANI, LEADER OF THE ITALO-AMERICAN LABOR FEDERATION IN NEW YORK, IS MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM FERIOLI INDICATES HE HOPES ALSO TO SEE JAY LOVESTONE. HIS INTENTION, ON BEHALF OF VANNI, IS TO INFORM HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND OF VANNI'S INTENTIONS, AS WELL AS TO ELICIT MAXIMUM SUPPORT FROM THE US LABOR MOVEMENT.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DC LEADERS PICCOLI AND ORLANDO HAVE INDICATED
THAT A DEFINITIVE BREAK IN THE LABOR SITUATION MAY WELL BE IN THE OFFING. PICCOLI REPORTS THAT SCALIA CONCEDES HE MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT LEADER AND IS WILLING TO STEP ASIDE. ORLANDO, TOO, NOW FEELS THAT SCALIA IS NOT THE RIGHT MAN. SINCE SARTORI DOES NOT ASPIRE TO THE TOP LEADERSHIP ROLE (AND IS NOT WELL SUITED
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FOR IT EITHER) AND VANNI WOULD REPRESENT ONLY A MINORITY OF THOSE

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ONE WOULD HOPE TO ATTRACT TO A NEW ORGANIZATION, OTHER NAMES ARE BEING DISCUSSED. ORLANDO HAS SUGGESTED BALDASSARE ARMATO, DC DEPUTY AND FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CISL'S POST AND TELEGRAPH WORKERS. EX-LABOR MINISTER COPPO HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY OTHERS.

3. MEANWHILE, THE CISL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS MARCH 5-7 TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES. IN THE PRECEDING CISL SECRETARIAT MEETINGS, A MAJORITY WHICH INCLUDED STORTI PREVAILED OVER A CARNITI-LED MINORITY IN ITS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A "DIALOGUE" WITH THE CISL MINORITY. THIS WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE DURING THE GENERAL COUNCIL SESSIONS WHICH SCALIA HAS DECLINED TO ATTEND. SARTORI WILL ATTEND, AND IS AGAIN QUOTED IN A MAGAZINE ARTICLE AS SAYING HE FAVORS NEITHER LABOR UNITY NOR SECESSION, BUT DOES FAVOR UNITY BETWEEN CISL AND UIL. CGIL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BONI SAYS THAT, AT THE JOINT GENERAL COUNCIL SESSIONS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS ON APRIL 16-18, PLANS FOR MERGER SHOULD GO AHEAD WHETHER OR NOT VANNI AND OTHERS ARE IN AGREEMENT. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS MADE EARLIER BY CGIL CHIEF LAMA.

4. COMMENT: THE SIGNS POINT INCREASINGLY TOWARD THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS TIME TALK OF A NEW CONFEDERATION IS FOR REAL. THE APRIL 16-18 CCU SESSION COULD PROVE TO BE THE CATALYST. STILL, ONE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE STORTI'S ABILITY TO MANEUVER TO FORESTALL A BREAK, AND SARTORI STILL SEEMS RELUCTANT TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF SECESSION. VOLPE

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